Madhya Pradesh, they are in touch with the Ministry of Defence to help them in the removal of toxic wastes from the site of Union Carbide India Limited.

Dismantling of Drug Price Control Order

194. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to dismantle the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum against the said decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is likely to result in prices of drugs, including life-saving drugs, spiralling beyond the reach of the common man; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to (a), as above.

Amount deposited by drug companies with NPPA

†195. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2775, given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 2001 and state:

(a) The names of drug companies and the amount deposited by them with national Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) till 31st January, 2002, on account of over-charging for drugs; and

(b) by when the entire amount would be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Till the 31st January, 2002, an amount of Rs. 604.092 lakhs has been recovered by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) from fourteen companies on account of overcharging for drugs. In some cases, the companies have filed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.